

# BOERS LEAVING LADYSMITH.

# RUNNING FIGHT

## ROBERTS MOVING TO BLOEMFONTEIN.

### AHEARN NOT HELD FOR BOYS' DEATH.

**Coroner's Jury Acquitted Old Man of Edgecombe Avenue Tragedy.**

After an inquest by Coroner Zucca into the death of the two boys, Martin Loeffler and Charles P. Debra, who were found dead in a closet at 108 Edgecombe avenue, the jury acquitted Cornelius Ahearn, who was held on suspicion of causing their death.

The jury deliberated only five minutes this afternoon.

Ahearn was not represented by counsel.

Policeman Thomas A. Kenny described the finding of the bodies.

Perceval Toombs, of 56 West Ninety-eighth street, one of the plumbers who found the bodies, said the room in which the closet was located was full of flies.

"Did it smell like the morgue?" asked Coroner Zucca.

"I don't know," replied Toombs gravely. "I never smelled the morgue."

Frank W. Blauvelt, of 46 St. Nicholas place, agent of the house, identified Ahearn as the caretaker of the house up to October last.

"Ahearn told me when he left in October," Mr. Blauvelt told the Coroner, "that he had been annoyed by boys."

"Why did you discharge him?" asked Assistant District Attorney Schwarzkopf.

"There were complaints from neighbors as to noises in the house at night."

"What kind of noises?"

"I took it that he had drinking bouts in the house."

"When did you visit the house last?"

"Oct. 17."

"Were you alone?"

"No; Ahearn and another man were with me."

"Did you visit the passageway where the two closets are?"

"Yes, sir."

"Were the closets open?"

"Did Ahearn seek to hide anything?" asked Coroner Zucca.

"I went through the house on Oct. 2 and on Nov. 1. There was nothing to suggest that the bodies of the two boys were in the closet," Mr. Blauvelt went on.

Erastus C. Haft, of 48 Prospect place, said he had visited the house Oct. 17 with Mr. Blauvelt. Ahearn carried a lighted lamp. Mr. Haft said Ahearn did nothing to arouse suspicion of attempting to conceal anything.

"We opened every door in the house," said Haft. "At least that is my impression. I am sure I opened the door of one of the closets."

Detective Parker gave it as his opinion that the bodies of the boys had been in the closet since August.

"Ahearn told me," he said, "that he had often chased boys out of the upper part of the house. He said he had no knowledge of having locked the boys in the closet."

Detective Enright testified that he had made a number of experiments in the house, tending to prove that Ahearn could have heard no noise made by the boys in the closet.

"My partner got in the closet," Enright testified, "and I went down into the cellar. I heard my partner kick the panel of the door plainly. I also heard his yells."

"We also tried to shut the door of the closet," Enright continued. "To see if a rust of wind might have closed it. It took all our strength to close it."

"Could the boys have closed it from the inside?" asked Coroner Zucca.

"They would have had all they could do to go on. I don't believe they could have closed it from the inside."

"The boys could have kicked the panel out," Enright testified, "if they had shoes on. The marks on the door were very light."

Andrew Fitzpatrick, a real estate man, testified that he had demonstrated that the closet could have been closed by the boys.

### GRAND JURY CALLS EXPERT

David N. Carvalho Examines Handwriting in Brooklyn Rapid Transit Inquiry.

David N. Carvalho, the handwriting expert, was called as a witness this afternoon before the special Grand Jury that is probing the Brooklyn Rapid Transit scandal.

Miss Mary Forrester, a stenographer employed by a Wall street firm, was another witness.

Justice Furman, of the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court, heard this afternoon that the Grand Jury investigating Brooklyn Rapid Transit rumors had agreed to work only two hours a day hereafter. The usual Grand Jury hours are from 10.30 to 1 o'clock. This Grand Jury changed the hours from 1 until 2 P. M.

Justice Furman called the jury before him and said that this would not be expected the jury to occupy the courtroom in the morning.

### MORE ROSSITER VICTIMS.

Residents of the Park Slope, Brooklyn, this afternoon retained Lawyer Albert R. Moore, of 215 Montague street, to appear for them before President Rossiter, of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company, and urge reforms in running the Seventh avenue line.

The Park Slope people claim that many of the Manhattan cars on the Seventh avenue line in the mornings are diverted at the bridge and that the passengers are obliged to change cars in order to get to New York.

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### FIERCE ATTACK ON "JOE" CHAMBERLAIN.

**But British Secretary Pooh-Poohs a Second Jameson Raid Inquiry.**

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The House of Commons today was crowded when Mr. David Alfred Thomas, Liberal member for Merthyr Tydvil, rose to move the re-opening of the inquiry into the origin and circumstances of the Jameson raid. Among those present in the diplomatic gallery was United States Ambassador Choate.

Mr. Thomas disclaimed any personal animosity against Mr. Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but the inconclusive nature of the first inquiry had created widespread dissatisfaction, which, Mr. Thomas asserted, had deepened into indignation at the disclosures of the confidential newspapers, impugning the impartiality of the committee.

He said it was in the interests of the nation and the character and reputation of the House of Commons, and of the House of Commons, that there should be a full and searching inquiry. He asserted that the previous inquiry was a farce and that the fresh facts adduced in the correspondence published by the Independent were strong grounds for a fresh inquiry.

Samuel Thomas Evans, Liberal member for the Middle Division of Glamorganshire, seconded the motion. He argued that there were strong grounds for suspecting that the Colonial Office and Mr. Chamberlain had prior knowledge of the events leading to the raid.

Mr. Evans said it was a question whether the authors of the raid had sufficient power or influence to prevent a majority of the House of Commons from having the opportunity of getting a committee of inquiry appointed.

"I do not understand," Mr. Chamberlain interrupted, "what the member means by the last sentence."

Mr. Evans replied that he thought

every one else in the House understood that the suggestion was that there were influences which might be worked to prevent the Government from asking for the reappointment of a committee. Ministerial crisis of "What influence?" followed this remark.

Mr. Chamberlain, amid profound attention, said there was absolutely nothing in what had happened since 1897 which could possibly be raised as ground for a second inquiry.

He proceeded to review the whole history of the Committee, and repeated his previous declaration, especially referring to the Hawkesley telegrams.

Mr. Chamberlain ridiculed the grounds advanced for a new inquiry, and said the "precious collection of documents" published by the Independent had been offered for sale to various London papers, which would not touch them with tongs, and at last, he added, they "found a customer in a friend of the Boers."

This friend of the Boers "contrived to transmit them to Dr. Leyds, who paid or promised to pay £100 sterling, and they were then communicated to the Independent."

"There is nothing in these documents from first to last," said the Colonial Secretary, who then dissected most of the documents, pointing out that they afforded no ground for charges against the Colonial Office. He then said:

"If this matter had not been complicated by political matters and personal animosities no man in this House would have said there was a shadow of ground for such an inquiry. The object of these personal attacks is to prevent me from participating in the Transvaal settlement."

### CLARK'S BIG EXPENSES.

His son Paid Out \$20,000 During Session of Montana Legislature.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—When the Senate Committee on Elections resumed its sitting today the cross-examination of Senator Clark was continued.

Mr. Clark said so far as he knew the committee acting in his behalf in the campaign had not filed any statement of expenditures, as required by the Montana Election law. He had made none.

"Where did your son get the \$20,000 he paid during the session of the Legislature?" he was asked.

"I presume he checked on his own account, but I don't know."

"What explanation did Mr. Wellcome make when he made his demand upon you for \$15,000?"

"He said that he had drawn upon his own account. I required no detailed statement from him, feeling confident the expenditure was made in a legitimate way."

### TEACHERS' BILL FIXED UP.

New Schedule Dating from Jan. 1 Last Adopted by Senate Sub-Committee.

ALBANY, Feb. 20.—The sub-committee of the Senate Cities Committee appointed to draft a New York City School Teachers' Salary bill has completed its work. The bill embraces a minimum school teachers' salary schedule, and allows the city Board of Education to make uniform schedule for all boroughs.

Under the provisions of the bill the teachers will receive salaries under this schedule from Jan. 1 of the present year. Senator Ford's four-mill annual tax to raise the school maintenance money is included in the bill.

The sub-committee feels that the salary problem should first be solved, when it will devote its attention to framing legislation having for its object the reformation of the New York City school administration.

### 10 P. M. EXTRA

### ANDY HORN, PARK ROW HOST, DIED IN FRIEND'S HOUSE.

"Andy" Horn, the well-known liquor dealer, whose saloon at the north side of the Bridge entrance on Park Row is a city landmark, died suddenly late this afternoon in the apartments of Mrs. Miller, at 44 Elizabeth street.

Mr. Horn has been suffering from heart disease for some time. He went South and returned a few weeks ago.

This afternoon he left his saloon about 4.30 o'clock, saying he was going uptown. Twenty minutes later the police were notified of his death.

Mr. Horn was worth about \$80,000, and owned the Park Row property and his residence, 508 Clinton avenue, Brooklyn. His widow, two sons and two daughters, all grown, survive him. He was fifty-four years old.

Mrs. Miller was an old friend of Mr. Horn. He had just entered her rooms when he was stricken with heart disease.

### MILLER NOT CAUGHT IN CANADA

William E. Miller was asked in Raymond Street Jail this afternoon if he had been arrested in Canada. His answer was: "Any fool ought to know that I wasn't."

Lawyer Flash, in attempting to serve a copy of a writ of habeas corpus upon Miller, was refused access to his cell by Sheriff Walton. He stopped the papers through the barred door. "Is this William E. Miller?" he asked. "What if it is?" was the response. "I have some papers to serve." "See my lawyers, Ridgway, House or Ammon," said Miller.

### WOMAN SWALLOWED ACID

Sarah Blum, thirty-three years old, of 52 Alden street, tried suicide this afternoon at her home by swallowing carbolic acid. She was taken to Gouverneur Hospital a prisoner.

### VICTORIA CALLS HER OLD SOLDIERS TO ARMS.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The Queen, through her private secretary, Sir Arthur John Bage, has sent the following letter to the Commander-in-Chief of the forces, Field Marshal Lord Wolseley:

"OSBORNE, Feb. 17.—My Dear Lord Wolseley: As so large a proportion of the army is now in South Africa, the Queen fully realizes that necessary measures must be adopted for home defense.

"Her Majesty is advised that it would be possible to raise for a year an efficient force from her old soldiers, who have already served as officers, non-commissioned officers or privates, and, confident in their devotion to the country and loyalty to her throne, the Queen appeals to them to serve her once more in place of those who, for a time, have been with the peoples of her colonies, are now re-equipping the invasion of her South African possessions.

"Her Majesty has signified her pleasure that these battalions shall be designated the Royal Reserve Battalions of her army." (Signed) "VICTORIA."

### BULLER'S ARMY IS CROSSING TUGELA.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The Boers besieging Ladysmith are in full retreat. They are protecting their movement from Ladysmith by a weak rear guard, and Gen. Buller's advance guard has crossed the river Tugela at Colenso.

Ladysmith, it is believed here, is practically relieved. The news of Buller's advance is contained in the following despatch:

"BLOW'S FARM, Tuesday, Feb. 20—4.10 P. M.—The Fusileer Brigade yesterday took Hlangwana Hill, the right of the enemy's position and commanding Colenso, the rest of the force advancing toward the Tugela.

"This morning the enemy had withdrawn all troops north of the Tugela and had practically evacuated Colenso. To-day Gen. Hart occupied Colenso after a very slight resistance by a weak rear guard and we hold the line of the Tugela, on the south side, from Colenso to Eagle's Nest.

"The enemy seem to be in full retreat and apparently are only holding the position they occupy across the Colenso-Ladysmith Railway, where it is close to the angle of the Tugela, with a weak rear guard. Hart's advanced guard is crossing at Colenso.

"Our casualties yesterday and to-day have, I hope, been but few.

**BULLER.**

The casualties among Gen. Buller's forces in the fighting at Hussar Hill, Monte Christo Hill and other places from Feb. 15 to Feb. 18, were: Killed, Capt. T. H. Burney and 13 men, wounded, 6 officers and 154 men.

### ROBERTS, RUSHING ON, HEADS OFF CRONJE?

LONDON, Feb. 20.—At 3 o'clock this afternoon the War Office issued a despatch from Gen. Lord Roberts which, while not stating that Gen. Cronje had been wiped out or captured, shows that the Commander-in-Chief is within fifty miles of Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State and possibly east of the Boer army.

This despatch is dated Paardeberg, 7.05 P. M., Monday. Paardeberg is thirty miles east of Jacobabad and less than fifty miles from Bloemfontein.

Gen. Roberts says that the railroad to Kimberley is open and that Gen. Methuen will proceed there with reinforcements for the garrison and large supplies will be forwarded at once.

From other sources it is learned that Gen. Methuen is probably already in Kimberley and that the train for the Diamond City left Cape Town last night.

While inspecting the Fourth Battalion of the Lincolns, Gen. Roberts prior to leaving Cape Town said:

(Continued on Second Page)